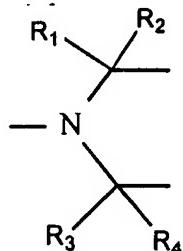


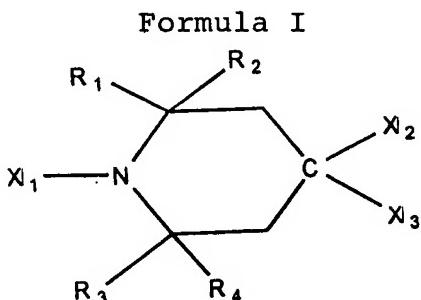
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Method for stabilising the viscosity and/or the active chlorine content of liquid compositions containing alkali or alkaline-earth hypochlorites, comprising the addition to said compositions of 0.001% to 5% by weight of compounds belonging to the class of hindered amines containing the group:



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different, represent methyl or ethyl.

2. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hindered amine has the general formula (I):



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different, represent methyl or ethyl; X₁ represents H, methyl or ethyl, an oxygen atom, an -OH group or an OR₅ group wherein R₅ represents linear or branched C₁-C₄ or cyclohexyl; X₂ represents the groups -OH or -NHR₅, wherein R₅ has the meaning

described above; or X_2 and X_3 , taken together represent an oxygen atom.

3. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 2 wherein groups R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 represent methyl.

4. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 2, wherein X_1 represents oxygen, X_2 is hydrogen, X_3 is OH and groups R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 represent methyl.

5. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 2 wherein X_1 and X_2 represent hydrogen, X_3 is OH, and groups R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 represent methyl.

6. (Currently amended) Method as claimed in claims 1-5 Claim 1 wherein liquid compositions containing active chlorine are thickened with soluble or water-dispersible polymers.

7. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the thickening polymers are homo- or co-polymers of acrylic acid.

8. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the thickening polymers are homo- or co-polymers of cross-linked acrylic acid.

9. (Currently amended) Method as claimed in claims 1 to 5 Claim 1 wherein the amount of stabiliser is between 0.005% and 3% by weight.

10. (Currently amended) Method as claimed in claims 1 to 5 Claim 1 wherein the active chlorine is present in the amount of between 0.5% and 10% by weight of the liquid composition.

11 -15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A stabilized detergent composition prepared according to the method of Claim 1 for domestic and industrial cleaning and disinfection which may contain chelating agents of metal ions.